

## Whip It

(Devo)

Crack that whip  
Give the past a slip  
Step on a crack  
Break your momma's back

When a problem comes along  
You must whip it  
Before the cream sets out too long  
You must whip it  
When something's going wrong  
You must whip it

Now whip it  
Into shape  
Shape it up  
Get straight  
Go forward  
Move ahead  
Try to detect it  
It's not too late  
To whip it  
Whip it good

When a good time turns around  
You must whip it  
You will never live it down  
Unless you whip it  
No one gets away  
Until they whip it

I say whip it  
Whip it good  
I say whip it

Whip it good

Crack that whip  
Give the past a slip  
Step on a crack  
Break your momma's back

When a problem comes along  
You must whip it  
Before the cream sets out too long  
You must whip it  
When something's going wrong  
You must whip it

Now whip it  
Into shape  
Shape it up  
Get straight  
Go forward  
Move ahead  
Try to detect it  
It's not too late  
To whip it  
Into shape  
Shape it up  
Get straight  
Go forward  
Move ahead  
Try to detect it  
It's not too late  
To whip it  
Well, whip it good

"Whip It" is a song by American rock band Devo from their third album *Freedom of Choice* (1980). It is a new wave and synth-pop song that features a synthesizer, electric guitar, bass guitar, and drums in its instrumentation. The apparently nonsensical lyrics have a common theme revolving around the ability to deal with one's problems by "whipping it". Co-written by bassist Gerald Casale and singer Mark Mothersbaugh, Devo recorded "Whip It" with producer Robert Margouleff at the Record Plant in Los Angeles.

Although "Whip It" was released as the second single from *Freedom of Choice*, Warner Bros. Records did not expect it to be a hit, due to its nonstandard tempo and strange lyrics. The disc jockey Kal Rudman took an interest in the song and it was soon being played on several radio stations in the Southeastern United States. Peaking at number fourteen on the *Billboard Hot 100*, "Whip It" became a hit single and found chart success in several countries. Mothersbaugh believes the song sold well because some people assumed the lyrics are about masturbation or sadomasochism.

An accompanying music video depicts these sexual themes; it features Mothersbaugh whipping clothing from a woman on a dude ranch. Despite some claims of misogynistic undertones, the video became popular on the fledgling television channel MTV. In recent years, several journalists have described "Whip It" as a cornerstone of the development of new wave music in the early 1980s and a unique song that transcended mainstream music. In the band's forty-year history, "Whip It" remains the only song by Devo to peak within the top forty of the *Billboard Hot 100*. As a result, Devo is often labeled by journalists as a one-hit wonder.